



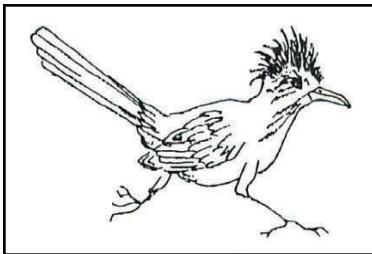
VIP2VIP



Season 6, Volume 2

Big Bend National Park's Volunteer Newsletter

December 2006



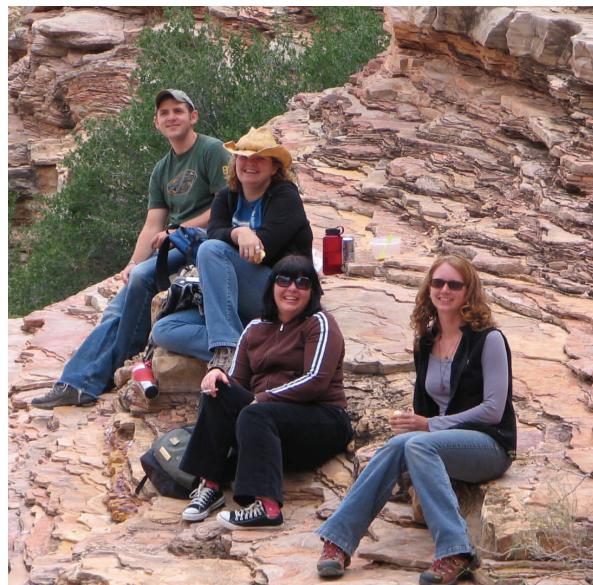
SCAs at Big Bend

SCA, or Student Conservation Association is America's largest national resource conservation organization. SCA provides volunteers of all backgrounds and educational levels with meaningful conservation service internships and volunteer opportunities in our National Parks, National Forests, and other public lands.

Each year over 3,000 volunteers perform 1.5 million hours of service in all 50 states to protect vital habitats, threatened wildlife, and other at-risk resources in our nation's parks, forests and urban green spaces. This unique experience instills an ethic of conservation and inspires lifelong stewardship that benefits our members, our society, and our environment.

Today, nearly 45,000 Alumni continue to practice the conservation ethic they first encountered through SCA as teachers, resource managers, park rangers, business people and in their personal lives.

The SCAs at Big Bend are generally Conservation Internships. Typically, Big Bend employs 4-5 SCA students each fall and spring season. Learn more about the SCA program at www.thesca.org.



Big Bend's SCAs John, Stephanie, Jill & Christina

Fall 2006 Volunteers

Persimmon Gap

Mark Kirtley - Visitor Center — 11th year

Reta and Dick Averill - Visitor Center — 2nd year

Castolon

Bob Douat - Visitor Center — new

Ruth and Ray Genuske - Visitor Center — 5th year

Joan and Raymond Kane -Camp Host & Backcountry — new

Rio Grande Village

Barbara and Bill Baldwin- Camp Hosts—15th year

Royann and Royce Brockett - Camp Hosts — 8th year

Sam and Erv Drabek - Backcountry—5th year

Lynda and Bob Fanning - Visitor Center — 3rd year

Marsha and Pete Coates- Visitor Center — 3rd year

Chisos Basin

Ed Davis - Camp Host — new

Kay and Doug Combs —Camp Hosts — 3rd year

Marty and Howard Benham—Visitor Center — 2nd year

Panther Junction

Diane and Gary Frable- River — 3rd year

Marsha Coates - Volunteer Program Assistant — 3rd year

Bob Wirt—ScRm — 7th year

Bud Frankenberger — ScRm —5th year

Allison Leavitt — ScRm

Jillian Floyd - SCA Interpretation — new

Christina Rinas - SCA Interpretation — new

John Queen - SCA Interpretation — new

Stephanie Steinhorst—SCA Interpretation — new

Part-time

Adela Aguirre — Castolon Maintenance

Judy Brinkerhoff- Resource Management—5th year

Angie Dean—Interp

Steve Harper - Resource Management—6th year

Leah Glenn — Library

Jason Morris — Emergency Services

Reine Wonite- Emergency Services

Steve Wick—Resource Management 4th year

Jillian Floyd

Coming from a small place called the Eastern Shore on the coast of Virginia, **Jillian Floyd** is an SCA with the Interpretive Division. Although this is her first time to



visit Big Bend, it is not her first experience as an SCA. Jill served as an SCA at Death Valley National Park, Bureau of Land Management in Arizona, and Arapahoe National Forest in Colorado.

Jill attended Virginia Commonwealth University and her future plans include attending art school in Washington, D.C. starting in February, 2007.

Jill has many talents and enjoys playing piano, guitar, bass and drums, as well as painting and cooking. Her favorite thing to do so far in Big Bend is hiking and seeing all the sights. She also enjoys reading and playing music in her spare time.

She has a yellow lab named "Milo" who is vacationing at home with her parents while she is here.

Jill's paleontology presentation takes guests on an exciting journey back in time when dinosaurs and other reptiles roamed Big Bend. She also leads guests on a guided walk through history at the Hot Springs. Thank you, Jill, for choosing Big Bend for your latest internship.



Jill and John working through lunch preparing their interpretive presentations.

John T. Queen III

A native Texan, **John Queen** graduated from Texas A&M University with dual degrees in History and International Relations, plus a minor in Hispanic Studies. John's first experience in Big Bend was with the Boy Scouts and he was hooked after that first visit. He continued to visit on spring breaks and Thanksgivings while in school and says he is "honored to volunteer" in a park that he enjoys so much and is glad to share his talents and to give of his time to benefit the park.

John spends much of his free time reading, backpacking and traveling. He has studied and traveled in Mexico, Peru and Bolivia.

John has one sister, five years older than him. He has two labs, a chocolate and a yellow, which is actually "white". John has owned horses for much of his life and says he would love at some point to help out with the horses and mules here at Big Bend.



John presents an interesting yet thought-provoking, controversial and ethical issue in his Rangers, Rumrunners and Rockhounds interpretation program which highlights the movement of contraband across the Rio Grande in both directions.

What are John's future plans? He has been offered another exciting SCA adventure. Thanks, John, for sharing your time and talents at Big Bend!

Christina Rinas

Christina Rinas is an SCA with the Interpretive Division. She graduated from the University of North Carolina at Asheville in 2003 with a major in Ecology and a minor in German. Since that time she has lived in Germany, the southwestern U.S. and Alaska. She has worked for the Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management at the Grand Canyon, Yosemite National Park and Denali National Park.

Christina explains to our visitors how to survive in the desert by living off the land with her interesting and informative presentation about edible plants of the Chihuahuan Desert.



Christina loves the wide open spaces of the desert environment. She has visited the Mojave, Sonoran and now the Chihuahuan Deserts. Her hobbies include biking, hiking and traveling. She invites anyone who would like to go on a biking excursion to give her a call. Big Bend is fortunate to have Christina for the fall season!



Christina and Stephanie in action assisting a hapless visitor to find her way in Big Bend!

Stephanie Steinhorst

A recent graduate of George Fox University in Oregon with dual degrees in History and Political Science, **Stephanie Steinhorst** is an SCA with the Interpretive Division.

Stephanie was born in Wisconsin, then moved with her family to the cool and damp Pacific Northwest, Washington state, when she was six years old.



Stephanie volunteered for the Bureau of Land Management at a lighthouse on the Oregon coast while taking time off between schooling and looking for a living history internship. She has previously worked with living history programs for other non-profit groups and state parks. Since her future plans include pursuing a doctorate in Public History in the fall, she decided to check out several grad schools while on the way to Big Bend. She has decided on New Mexico State University. Stephanie says if she had not come to Big Bend, she would not have found this unique opportunity.

Since she has been at Big Bend, she was excited to attend the National Association of Interpretation Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico the first week in November.

Stephanie has a passion for living history and holds the audience spellbound with her educational and entertaining presentation of "When Camels Roamed Big Bend".

In her free time she loves building historical costumes, quilting and baking. She also enjoys performing as a renaissance noblewoman and an 18th century pirate!

This is her first time to visit Big Bend and she is enjoying her experience here. Big Bend is fortunate to have this enthusiastic and witty intern. Thank you for being here, Stephanie.



ur first VIP Potluck of the season was very well attended and enjoyed by all.



Reminder!

Once your paperwork for reimbursement has been submitted, please wait a week, then call Terry Boren at 477-1118 to see if your check is ready. You will need to see her in person, in the Administration Office, Mon-Fri, 8-5 to sign for your check.

Activities & Events

Dec. 5-Holiday Auction, PJ Community Room. Preview items available for bidding at 6:00 p.m. Bidding will begin at 6:30. Come and support Casa Grade Association and have a fun time.

Dec. 10-December Potluck and Chinese gift exchange (bring a wrapped gift \$2 max) 6:30 p.m. PJ Community Room

Dec. 12-Holiday Social, PJ Community Room. 5:30 p.m. Santa's visit; 6:30 p.m. Social with food, drinks, etc.; 8:00 Dancing til . . .

Dec. 20- San Vicente ISD School Christmas Play, 6:00 p.m.

Jan 10-VIP Pizza Party and Appreciation Night, 6:30 p.m., PJ Community Room

Jan 14 Big Bend Ultra Run 2007 50K & 25K individual runs Register at www.BigBend50.com

Ongoing:

Crafts-Tuesday nights, 6:30 p.m. PJ Community Room

Big Bend Community Choir-Wednesday, 5:30 p.m., Music room at Terlingua School. For information call Patricia 434-3208

Musical Instruments needed for the Children's Sunday School Class for BBNP. See Janie Mayton or Terry Boren

Volunteers needed for Recycling Program. Call 371-2972 for info. Check the bulletin board at PJ for details and updates on other Community events!

ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS

If anyone is looking for a Special Project or if you would just like to help out, the library is the place! Please contact Angelina at 477-1195.

In Memorial George Willis

For those of you who knew fellow volunteer George Willis we are saddened to report, he lost his battle with small cell lung cancer on Monday, November 27, 2006. He fought hard even though he was well aware there was little, if any, chance of winning. The wonderful thing is that he was never in any pain. He went peacefully with his son, Dean, and wife, Clara, with him in the hospital room at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. As per his request, there will be no memorial service. He will be buried on a family plot in the Masonic cemetery in Del Rio, Texas.

Big Bend was fortunate to have George and Clara volunteer as camp hosts in the Basin Campground for several seasons while they lived in the area at Terlingua Ranch.

As Clara says, George would tell you to go have a cold beer, a glass of wine, or the beverage of your choice in celebration of a wonderful individual. George may be gone, but his spirit lives on in the memories of all of those who knew him.

VOLUNTEER KUDOS

The following comment was recently turned in by one of our visitors who wanted to thank a volunteer for his outstanding job:

"This is to let you know what a tremendous resource you have in volunteer **Bob Wirt**. On November 10, 2006, my wife and I attended his program on Terlingua Abajo. Bob did an outstanding job of not only describing the ruins but of explaining how the people of Terlingua lived and thrived. His insight and story telling kept us amazed and fascinated throughout the talk. Bob is a true Big Bend treasure and we hope to come back in April to hear him again."

Greg & Dottie Ulrich, Houston, Texas